

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WILLIAM FARRELL PAGE THREE BYLINER
NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY DECEMBER 28, HEADED "ISRAEL IS
DISCOUNTING REPORTS OF PLO MODERATION."

2. JERUSALEM, DEC. 27--REPORTS FROM VARIOUS CORNERS OF
THE ARAB WORLD IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION IS SOFTENING ITS OPPOSITION TO
ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE ARE BEING DISMISSED BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS
AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ANALYSTS AS PROPAGANDA THAT IS PART
OF AN OVERALL ARAB DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY TO PROJECT A MORE
MODERATE IMAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. IN THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI VIEW, THE ARABS HAVE MOUNTED
A DRIVE IN RECENT WEEKS AIMED AT PERSUADING OTHER NATIONS,
PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, THAT IN THEIR EAGERNESS
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FOR RENEWED MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS THEY ARE MODIFYING
THEIR INTRANSIGENCE TOWARD ISRAEL.

4. THE REPORTS THAT THE PLO MAINSTREAM IS MOVING TOWARD
ACCEPTANCE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COMPOSED OF LANDS
CAPTURED BY ISRAEL DURING THE 1967 WAR--THE WEST BANK

OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND GAZA--ARE INTERPRETED IN SOME
QUARTERS AS TACIT SIGNS OF PLO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL.
BUT NOT HERE, AT LEAST NOT IN RULING GOVERNMENT CIRCLES.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND SPOKESMEN SAY CERTAIN
FACTS HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE RECENT REPORTS: THE PALES-
TINIAN COVENANT STILL CALLS FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF
ISRAEL; YASIR ARAFAT, THE LEADER OF THE PLO HAS NOT
RENOUNCED TERRORISM AS A TACTIC, AND TERRORIST GROUPS
ARE STILL BEING ORGANIZED ON THE WEST BANK.

6. FIFTEEN ARTICLES OPPOSE ISRAEL -- ACCORDING TO PROF.
HARKABI, AN ISRAELI EXPERT ON THE PALESTINIANS AND A
GOVERNMENT ADVISER, 15 OF THE 33 ARTICLES IN THE PLO
COVENANT CALL FOR THE DEMISE OF ISRAEL EITHER EXPLICITLY
OR IMPLICITLY, AND NONE OF THESE WERE REVISED AT RECENT
PLO MEETINGS.

7. SHLOMO AVINERI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY, TOLD A GROUP OF STUDENTS IN BEERSHEBA TODAY
THAT "WITHOUT A BASIC AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE
PALESTINIAN COVENANT, IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT THIS
MODERATION WILL BE REGARDED, IN ISRAEL, AS BEING ANY
MORE THAN A TACTICAL MOVE."

8. MR. AVINERI SAID IT APPEARED AS IF SYRIA AND EGYPT
WERE PUTTING STRONG PRESSURE ON PLO LEADERS TO MOVE
CLOSER TO THE CONCERTED SYRIAN, EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI
ARABIAN INITIATIVE TO ADOPT A MORE MODERATE POSTURE,
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"BUT SO FAR THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT BORNE FRUIT."

9. THE REPORTS THAT THE PLO IS LEANING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE
OF A WEST BANK-GAZA STATE ARE VIEWED AS HOPEFUL SIGNS
BY SOME ISRAELI DOVES AND LEFTISTS. BUT ISRAELI
OFFICIALS IN POLICY-MAKING POSITIONS SEE THE SITUATION
DIFFERENTLY.

10. BROADCASTS CONTINUE HARD LINE -- FOREIGN MINISTRY
ANALYSTS TEND TO VIEW ANY PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH
A STATE AS AN INTERLUDE IN THE ULTIMATE PALESTINIAN
COMMITMENT TO THE DISMANTLING OF ISRAEL. THESE ANALYSTS
ALSO SAY THAT, BASED ON THEIR MONITORINGS OF ARAB
BROADCASTS, THE SOFT WORDS PALESTINIANS AND ARAB OFFICIALS
ARE DROPPING IN THE WEST ARE NOT MIRRORED IN WHAT THEY
ARE TELLING PEOPLE IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

11. FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON OF ISRAEL SAID AT A

CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY THAT A FEW DAYS AGO A DAMASCUS RADIO STATION CARRIED A COMMENTARY SAYING THAT AT RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS, "THE ARABS WILL SUBMIT TO ISRAEL AN INVOICE THAT WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY JERUSALEM, NABLUS, GAZA, SINAI AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, BUT TEL AVIV, HAIFA, JAFFA AND NAZARETH."

12. MR. ALLON TOLD THE CABINET: "RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE HAVE ONE IMPLICATION, ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL."

13. SO FAR THE ISRAELIS HAVE SCOFFED AT ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE THE PLO IN ANY RENEWED PEACE TALKS, AT GENEVA OR ELSEWHERE. THE ISRAELIS ARE INSISTING THAT ANY NEW TALKS BE BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION THAT WAS USED TO CONVENE THE BRIEF GENEVA MEETING OF 1973, IN EFFECT EXCLUDING THE PLO.

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14. ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE ALSO REJECTING THE NOTION OF A SINGLE ARAB DELEGATION AT RENEWED TALKS, CLAIMING THAT SUCH AN IDEA IS MERELY A RUSE TO INCLUDE THE PALESTINIANS.

15. "NOTHING HAS CHANGED," A RANKING ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID. THE OFFICIAL SAID ISRAEL IS KEEPING A CLOSE WSTCH ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS ARE PREPARED TO LET THE PLO AGAIN OPERATE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

16. IN THE PAST, PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS HAVE USED POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO CONDUCT RAIDS ON ISRAEL. DURING A YEAR AND A HALF OF CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON THE RAIDS HAVE CEASED AND ISRAEL LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED THAT THEY WILL NOT COUNTENANCE THEIR RESUMPTION.

17. "IF THEY (THE SYRIANS) PERMIT THEM TO ACT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON, THIS IS CLEARLY AIMED AT PROVOKING US," THE OFFICIALS SAID. "THEY MAY WANT TO PROVOKE US AT A DIFFICULT TIME; THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GETTING STARTED AND WE ARE INVOLVED IN ELECTIONS."
(END TEXT)
ROBINSON

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